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a closer theoretical affiliation with coöperation and both show in their aim a growing unity with the ideal of the new municipal socialism.

The only misgivings felt by the reader of this admirable book is as to the treatment of coöperative production. The *Labor Copartnership* of August, 1894, shows the extent to which the copartnership idea *together with the sharing of profits and management* has now reached. The whole number of societies had grown from 15 in 1883 to 109 in 1893; the sales for the year from £160,751 in 1883 to £1,292,550 in 1893; profits in the decade had risen from £9,031 to £67,663. It appears too that the ratio of failures has fallen to a lower mark. The chief difficulty—not of manufacturing, but of finding a market—is said also to be diminishing. This is so far a hopeful realization of Neal's ideal, "of substituting in the busy world of industry united concert for antagonistic conflict, and thus making the ever-growing command over the powers of nature attained by man as conductive as they may be made to the well-being of the working masses, instead of leaving the wealth thus produced to be divided by a scramble."

JOHN GRAHAM BROOKS.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Problemi Sociali Contemporanei. Di A. LORIA. Milan, M. Kantarowicz. — 131 pp.

In this volume Professor Loria has gathered seven discourses delivered in the early part of 1894 at the University of Padua. They were undertaken at the petition of a large number of students, who asked the distinguished author to expound in brief form the general doctrines of political economy. But political economy, as understood by Professor Loria, is a very large subject; and accordingly we have here a discussion of the fundamental questions of social organization and social development. The titles of the discourses, after the first and introductory one, are: Liberty, Property, Socialism, Social Darwinism, Evolution, and Revolution,—a list which indicates sufficiently how wide a range of general questions is covered.

The brilliant qualities of the Paduan professor appear once more in this slender volume: the wide learning, the skillful logic, the contempt of shams and indirections, the fervent advocacy of a better social system, the eloquent style. We can believe that crowds pressed to hear the lectures, and that they were published in response to urgent requests; nor will they fail to attain the object, which is

modestly stated in the preface, of stimulating among the author's countrymen a healthy discussion of the great problems of social organization. No layman can read these pages without being stirred to interest and inquiry, while even those who have made it their business to follow the literature of social speculation will not fail to find fresh thoughts and new points of view. Nevertheless, these are but popular lectures, covering the widest of problems in very brief space. It is not to be expected, as it is not pretended, that they should explain completely the author's own views. Still less is it to be expected that they should set forth any body of generally accepted conclusions.

The introductory chapter, and that next following, on "Liberty," paint in unsoftened tones the evils and inequalities of social conditions as they are. That on "Property" refutes summarily and incisively the theories which trace the institution to occupation, to labor, to force of law, or what-not; but, characteristically enough, says nothing of the simple utilitarian theory, which would weigh strongest in the minds of most economists. The historical sketch under "Socialism," could hardly be surpassed within the limits given; except, indeed, for the exaggerated praise given to Marx. In the chapter on "Social Darwinism," there is a somewhat easy confutation of current misapplications of the theory of natural selection to social phenomena. Finally, under the heading of "Evolution," the author's own views of the laws of social development begin to be unfolded; and in the closing lecture, on "Revolution," he points the road to the peaceful accomplishment of an inevitable social transformation.

Underlying all this, of course, is the ingenious doctrine which was set forth in the *Analisi della Proprietà Capitalista*, and which has evidently become more and more firmly fixed in Professor Loria's mind. To the present writer the theory of pristine equality and of free land, which is the foundation of this new philosophy, seems untrue to history and weak in logic; the application of that theory to the explanation of all economic and social development, seems forced and artificial; the "mixed association" under free land offers no solid promise of a social utopia. It is inevitable, therefore, that he should dissent from the conclusions summarized in the volume here under review. But such dissent is not inconsistent with a high respect for the learning and the ability of the author, or a cordial appreciation of the brilliant talents which he has again shown in this his last publication.

F. W. TAUSSIG.